

AFU Newsletter

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Small triangular object with a jet-like sound by Steve Sandström

One of the nicest summer pleasures for many of us Swedes is to sit idly by one of our thousands of lakes, holding a fishing-rod. Few moments are as peaceful as these moments. Often, it is not catching one or two fishes that holds our attention, but the very mystery of the surrounding nature. Sometimes, however, unknown forces can interact with the most idyllic hour. This is what happened to Martell Åström last summer, in June 1994.

It was a very fine summer's day when Martell decided to go out in the boat that he has by a small lake not far from Floda, where he lives. Floda is a small village about 60 kilometers SW of the north-Swedish town Skellefteå.

There was not a cloud in the sky. Martell took his boat to his favorite fishing area and sat there idly for a long while. The only sound was the waves lapping against the sides of his boat. Suddenly he heard another sound, a sound foreign to the area.

At low altitude, maybe about 50 metres, and almost in zenith, there suddenly came an unknown flying object. It looked like an arrow-head and was black in colour. Martell could clearly see that the object wasn't very big, he estimated it to be about two meters long.



First Martell thought it was an ordinary jet fighter. The sound reminded him of such a plane. He is completely convinced, however, that it was no such plane. His view of it, against the clear summer sky, was too good for such a mistake.

The unidentified object disappeared towards the other shore of the lake. It was then at such a low altitude that it seemed to pass between the trees. This was probably a misunderstanding since the object was by then only a small black spot on the horizon. There are no other witnesses to the incident but I see no reason to doubt the sincerity

of the observer.

The most difficult task is to try to judge whether there is a risk that Martell Åström did in fact see an ordinary jet, maybe a Viggen air force fighter, but was somehow mistaken in the strong sun-light.

Probably not so. Even though there is still a chance for such a mistake at a certain angle, Martell could follow this object for quite a distance and he saw it quite distinctly. We can never be completely sure, especially since Martell does not remember the date of the incident, therefore it is impossible to verify if something military was in the neighbourhood.

It is up to each one of us to judge: did Martell see an airplane or not? I do not personally think so because of his dead certain description of the object's appearance.

Readers of the AFU Newsletter may recognize details from another case, published in issue nr 37 ("Miniature stealth-like plane over Lake Vättern"). This incident occurred at Brandstorp, close to another Swedish lake. Five witnesses reported a small, delta-shaped object flying at high speed out over the water. The Defence Staff proposed that the witnesses had seen a radio-controlled model aircraft. Anyone acquainted with model aircraft builders, however, know they are not very keen on flying their treasures over rough terrain or waters.

Small objects have been spotted many times in our area in the last years. We cannot turn away from them. I have a feeling that many answers to the UFO mystery depend on the way we treat and analyze this very special category of cases.

Note: Steve Sandström is the chairman of a new UFO-Sweden group, UFO-Skellefteå, whose investigations cover most of the vast northern territories. Steve is editor of their excellently desktopped magazine "UFO-Norr" (in Swedish only). Steve may be contacted by writing to: UFO-Skellefteå, Uppfinnarvägen 4, S-931 45 Skellefteå, Sweden. The illustration is by the group's staff artist, "Tecknar-olle".

The light that stopped a car by Clas Svahn & Jörgen Granlie

It was shortly before 23.00 on February 15, 1994. Kerstin Hellman had finished her work at the Fagerudd conference center to the south of Enköping (80 km NW of Stockholm). It was a clear and calm winter night and 12 degrees below zero on the centigrade scale. Kerstin started her Volvo 245 to drive 20 kilometres to her home at Grillby. As always she took the small road over Boglösa and Villberga instead of the E18 highway. The

moon had just passed below the horizon but the snowcover still made the road bright and easy to observe.

- I was going at about 60-70 kilometres because the road was rather slippery. As I was a few kilometres from home there was a sudden brightness and I looked up. Over a group of trees on my right side I saw a very oblong light that had "spikes" on the upper part. Just as I spotted this light the car started to act irregularly. I looked at the dashboard and noted that the car lights grew weaker and the speedometer went down. When I looked up on the road again - I had to bend forwards - the light took off and it just disappeared. The light was yellow, almost like from a candle light. Very yellow. The car continued some 100-200 metres while the lights grew dimmer and dimmer and finally it stopped. It was completely dead.

Kerstin Hallman managed to roll the car to the side of the road and waited for help. A few minutes later a milk-lorry came by. The driver stopped to help her, but he did not succeed in starting her car. Instead, he called Kersins husband on the phone and asked him to come and help her.

- As my husband sat down at the wheel and turned the ignition key it started with no trouble at all. He managed at the very first attempt.

Her husband tells us he was very surprised when the compartment light lit up as he opened the door and yet more surprised when the car started so easily.

- But next day it was completely dead. I took the battery out and had it checked and loaded at a service station. It was faultless.

A few days after the incident UFO-Sweden paid for a new check-up of Kerstin Hallman's car, especially with a view of finding out if there was something wrong with the electric system. No faults were found. The car, a 1983 model, has a conventional ignition and carburettor system without sensitive electronic equipment. Ice formation in the carburettor could result in engine failure in this type of car but after a few minutes it would usually start up again. Such a failure would not have any influence on the lighting, however.

Another possibility would be that the ignition voltage from the generator was somehow disrupted. Such a failure would not, however, have any large influence on the car's operation in the short distance it was the question of in this case.

UFO-Sweden has also tried to find an explanation for the light Kerstin Hallman saw. A number of possible airports and helicopter owners were checked but none had any activity.

- I sometimes ponder over what it was that I saw but I just don't know, says Kerstin Hallman. It resembled an oblong football with spires turned upwards, fantastically bright. More I wouldn't know.

- Are you convinced that there was a connection between the light and the car failure?

- I can't imagine anything else. It has never happened neither before nor since that the car has stopped in this way. There must have been a

connection.

Steve Sandström, chairman of UFO-Skellefteå, and a member of one of UFO-Sweden's assessment groups, cautions us to be careful in our judgement. He remembers a similar incident, without any light phenomenon, that he experienced while driving a Volvo Amazon car.

"Suddenly the car started to go heavy, the engine seemed tortured and the car's lighting (even the lights inside) started to glow a pale yellow. It was as if someone had connected a two-ton trailer to the back of the car. Then suddenly the phenomenon released it's grip on the car and everything was normal. When the interested owner of the Volvo Amazon finally found the fault it turned out to be a loose contact in the generator that caused a short-circuit."

Now this explanation is far from applicable to this case. The battery in Kerstin Hallman's Volvo was OK and the car had started with no problem just ten minutes before the incident. A loose generator would have no effect on the car since there was power from the battery. It hasn't been possible to find any reasonable explanation for the incident.

Source: UFO-Aktuellt, published by UFO-Sweden, pp. 20-21. Published from: Box 175, S-733 23 Sala, Sweden.

Wan't to become an ambassador for Sirius?

The UFO business is full of kooks and conmen. One of them is Anders B. Johansson, a "New Age" Swede who is selling ambassador titles for the Sirius people expected, by Johansson, to land on Earth before the summer of 1996. If you have 5.000 SEK to spare you are guaranteed (?) a post as an ambassador for the invaders -- and you will probably help pay for Johansson's new Macintosh computer and other office equipment... Johansson is selling New Age courses, crystal healing treatments and voyages to Egypt at prices that can only be described as steep.

UFO-Sweden investigated Mr. Johansson's claims and businesses which include almost everything esoteric, from astrology to tarot reading. UFO-Sweden chairman Clas Svahn bluntly consider Johansson's activities as "confidence tricks". The negative publicity from UFO-Sweden resulted in an article in Stockholm's new "Metro" newspaper (distributed free in the subway). Reportedly, this forced Johansson to move his Tri Orion-Sirius Center to less prominent localities.

Johansson lives in Stockholm but is registered as an emigrant for the United States on May 1, 1990. This means he pays no income taxes in Sweden. All income is transferred to him through a tax-exempt foundation.

In 1992, Anders B. Johansson invited American "ufologist" Wendelle Stevens to talk before Swedish audiences. UFO-Sweden has interviewed a woman

who was hypnotically regressed by Stevens. She remembers the hypnosis attempt with fear:

- Wendelle Stevens tried to force me to remember what had happened. It was a most stressful situation and I was frightened. He didn't appear to be a professional, says the woman who as a consolation got money for the taxi home. The woman has a written protocol of the session.

UFO-Sweden continues the investigations of the activities of other new age ufologists. One of them is Rauni-Leena Luukanen-Kilde, a Finnish medical doctor travelling the world-wide new-age/ufology lecture circus, and writing "international bestsellers", promoting her crude philosophy based on the most popular myths in ufology.

UFO-Sweden's 25 year anniversary

On September 2, 1970, the 25th anniversary of UFO-Sweden was celebrated at the Lersäter training center in mid-Sweden. Three UFO-Sweden chairmen were present: Clas Svahn (present chairman), Christer Nordin and Bevan Berthelsen (his predecessors). Traditionally (- since 1977 -) UFO-Sweden holds an autumn training weekend for field investigators and members of UFO-Sweden's report assessment groups. Friday to Sunday ufologists from all over Sweden gather to listen to lectures on subjects such as misidentifications, witness psychology and history of religion.

One of the prominent subjects of discussion this year was the Roswell autopsy film which had been aired on Swedish TV4 on August 27. The autopsy film was generally regarded with scepticism. AFU's Håkan Blomqvist reviewed the first 25 years of UFO-Sweden's history, noting that from the first years of ET belief and esoteric interests the organization had now matured into a well-established group that attempts to treat UFOs in a scientific manner.

Wingless object near Norwegian airplane

At 16.25 hours on July 11, 1995, a Dash-8 passenger plane from the Widerøe company was on route from Fornebu (Oslo) to Brønnøysund when something very strange happened over Steinkjer about 70 kilometres N of Trondheim. The co-pilot caught sight of a flying object that moved to the right of the plane. From his left side of the cockpit the captain only saw a part of what happened:

- First we thought it was another plane but as I bent down to get a better view, I noticed it had neither wings nor tail-fins, says captain Erik P. Risan. It was fine weather and good visibility.

His (anonymous) co-pilot, on the right side of the cockpit, got a better view of the object but does not want to elaborate on the incident:

- I have already told the facts to the radar station in Trondheim. If I wanted this story in the media I would have said so, he stated.

The Widerøe plane was flying at 15.000 feet. The unknown object slowed down and disappeared. In about a minute it was all over. The crew informed the Værnes tower that something was in the air. Sometimes a weather balloon goes astray, but the captain does not want to speculate if this might be the explanation in this case. The military radar at Gråkallen near Trondheim had coverage of the area but caught no return from the unknown object. There were no military planes in the area. The object was considered unidentified by the military forces.

11 year old Roy Arne Hallem witnessed the incident from the porch of his home at Inndalen. The boy told his parents on Tuesday evening before the incident was published the next day.

- The object was polished and almost as large as the airplane. I saw it for maybe a minute before it disappeared straight up at great speed, he said. Three hours later a similar silvery, polished object was spotted by 75 year old Bjarne Lein.

Sources: *Verdens Gang* (Oslo newspaper), July 13 and 14, 1995; Stig Aggestad (UFO-Sweden).

More Scandinavian cases...

If you are interested in Scandinavian UFO cases you should subscribe to **Trans-UFO** a newsletter published by Eileen Fletcher, Derwent Cottage, Derwent Dam, Bamford, Sheffield S30 2AQ, UK.

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Donationer från Brage Janssons familj: Stockholmsufologen Brage Jansson (en gång medlem i Ifologiska Sällskapet) är svårt sjuk och hans familj tömmer källarförråden. Clas har vid flera tillfällen haft möjlighet att gå igenom samlingarna. Resultatet: ett par billaster böcker, tidskrifter, band och annat. En knapp halvmeter överskottslitteratur finns också till försäljning - dock inte så mycket att det just nu motiverar en ny antikvarialista!

Nyförvärv: Willy Wegner (Horsens, Danmark) är i slutfasen på en stor internationell UFO-bibliografi och har donerat ett manuskript som nu finns i två pärmor hos AFU. Från USA har undertecknad köpt ett ex. av "Alien Discussions", boken om MIT-konferensen 1992, som så småningom hamnar i AFU:s hylla. Richard Haynes och förlaget Wild Flower Press har båda skickat AFU små kartonger gratisböcker. Tyvärr kommer mycket att inte vara till utlån då vi bara har ett enda exemplar.

Rapportarkivet: Från UFO-Sundsvall kom en "eftersläng" av rapportmaterial från 70-talet som vi nu "smält in" i rapportarkivet. Processen att ta hand om "gamla högar med rapporter" är tidsödande. Rapporterna behandlas på olika sätt beroende på om de förut finns i rapportarkivet eller ej, och om de finns i databasen eller ej.

ScanCat: Under våren/sommaren har våra "ALU:n" **Jessica Larsson** och **Ann-Britt Eriksson** kodat fall från 1993 och första kvartalet 1994 samt ett stort antal retroaktiva händelser, totalt drygt 400. Till detta kommer cirka 180 observationer av spökflygare på 1930-talet som **Susanna Lindmark** registrerat. Ann-Britt, Susanna och Jessica slutade alla i augusti, men Jessica är så intresserad att hon fortsätter att jobba ideellt på AFU.

Listor ur ScanCat: I slutet av juli gjordes de första uttagen ur databasen: fem "länslistor" som beställts av tre journalister och två av UFO-Sveriges fältundersökare. Tills vidare tar vi ut en liten avgift på 100 kr för fältforskare och 200 kr för mer kommersiellt bruk. Registreret har ännu inte den pålitlighet som krävs för att ta fram statistik (t.ex. över antal fall per år). Under hösten ägnar jag en del tid till att städa bort de mest uppenbara felen.

Ubåtsprojekt: Arbetscentrum i Nyköping beviljade den 23/8 Wolfgang Randisek ytterligare ett ALU-halvår hos oss med start 11/9. Wolfgang har själv föreslagit ett jobb med att systematisera och försöka dra några slutsatser av vårt ubåtsarkiv. Alla ubåtsrapporter registreras i ScanCat och ett ämnesindex läggs

upp. Wolfgang ska försöka se om det finns några trender i materialet och om dessa i så fall har några kopplingar till UFO-fenomenet. Wolfgang arbetar med projektet i Arbetscentrums lokaler i Nyköping.

UFO-Sveriges historia: Håkan Blomqvist har i sommar författat en lång och detaljerad historik om UFO-Sverige, som i år fyller 25 år. Artikeln publiceras i kommande nummer av UFO-Aktuellt. UFO-Sverige startades i samband med den första riksstämman i Motala 1970. Mitt klaraste minne från den konferensen var Gideon Johanssons föredrag.

Lersäter: Lördagen den 2 sept firades UFO-Sveriges 25-årsjubileum på Lersätersgården i samband med den årliga kursen för fältutredare. Vi återsåg gamla ufo-rävar som Bevan Berthelsen, Christer Nordin (som kanske flyttar till Gambia!) och folkmusikern Åke "UFO" Gustafsson från Tranås. Från AFU deltog Håkan Blomqvist, Jessica Larsson och undertecknad. Håkan gav i ett av sina föredrag smakprov ur den kommande artikeln om UFO-Sveriges historia. För undertecknad var det första gången på Lersäter. Jag var imponerad av den närmast akademiska kvalitén på föredrag och diskussioner. Även om vi inte löst UFO-problemet (vilket vi inte är ensamma om..) så har vi skaffat oss bra mycket bättre förutsättningar. Roligt med alla nya, ungdomliga ansikten som tar vid när vi gamlingar en dag tröttnar. Som vanligt hade vi en serie bidrag till arkivet med oss hem till Norrköping: arkivpärmor, kartor, böcker och några målningar av Carl-Antons far.

Besök: Den 14 juli hade arkivet besök en hel dag av Mikael Nilsson från Strängnäs, nybliven fältutredare därstädes. Den 5 aug förde vi diskussioner på arkivet med stockholmsföretaget Idéfilm om en planerad CD-ROM-produktion. Den 24 aug hade vi besök av tre UFO-intresserade som arbetar på Invandrarverket här i Norrköping. Den 5 sept kom Jenny Arneson, gymnasist som skriver ett specialarbete.

Massmedia: Roswellfilmen på TV4 den 27/8 väckte på nytt massmedia ur Törnrosasömnen. Håkan berättade om arkivet på TV-Ost den 28/8 och dagen därpå i Radio Östergötland.

Planeringskonferens på AFU: Ytterligare en planeringskonferens med UFO-Sverige hålls på Ljuraknuten/arkivet den 11 november i år. Om du inte sett arkivet tidigare är det väl hög tid att komma hit, eller hur?! Du är välkommen!

Anders Liljegren